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CANADA AND NUNAVUT PARTNER TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN WHALE COVE, REPULSE BAY AND RANKIN INLET

2-3068

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut (July 16, 2008) - Today, the Governments of Canada and Nunavut announced a joint investment of $10.1 million for infrastructure projects in three Nunavut communities.

"Canada is proud to help important projects like these because strong municipal infrastructure is essential to healthy communities," said the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board on behalf of the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. "These infrastructure investments in Whale Cove, Repulse Bay and here in Rankin Inlet will help these communities continue to grow as vibrant and productive places to live. In keeping with our Northern Strategy, the Government of Canada is pleased to work with the Government of Nunavut to strengthen community infrastructure across the territory."

Minister Toews was joined by Shawn Maley, Assistant Deputy Minister of Government and Community Services, Government of Nunavut who attended on behalf of Minister Levinia Brown.

"These investments mean more than just new or updated buildings – we are investing in our youth, our elders, our sports teams and our communities," said Minister Brown. "These new and improved community centres and arena will provide real, day-to-day benefits to the residents of Whale Cove, Repulse Bay and Rankin Inlet."

Under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut will invest $4.1 million in Whale Cove's new community centre, $5 million for the new community centre in Repulse Bay, and $1 million for a retrofit to Rankin Inlet's community arena. This funding will be delivered over two years.

The Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund assists smaller communities across Canada in meeting their infrastructure needs in areas such as water, wastewater treatment, culture, recreation, tourism, and "green" projects that reduce community environmental impacts. In Nunavut, this fund is administered by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Under the initial Canada-Nunavut Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Agreement signed in August 2005, the federal and territorial governments provided $16 million for capital infrastructure projects in the territory. This investment was followed by a $3.15 million "top-up" for Nunavut projects in May 2007. The total federal-territorial Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is $38.3 million.

Backgrounder - The Canada-Nunavut Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)

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Backgrounder - The Canada-Nunavut Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)

The Canada-Nunavut Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) supports smaller-scale municipal infrastructure projects that meet pressing infrastructure needs in Nunavut communities. These projects include infrastructure required for clean drinking water, wastewater, culture, recreation, tourism, and "green" projects that reduce community environmental impacts.

In May 2007 the Government of Canada provided an additional $200 million to the MRIF to help smaller communities across Canada meet their infrastructure needs. This resulted in a "top-up" of $3.15 million for Nunavut.

Kivalliq Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Projects 2008-2010

Hamlet of Whale Cove – New Community Centre

- Government of Canada contribution: $2,050,000
- Government of Nunavut contribution: $2,050,000
- Total MRIF contribution: $4,100,000

Hamlet of Repulse Bay – New Community Centre

- Government of Canada contribution: $2,500,000
- Government of Nunavut contribution: $2,500,000
- Total MRIF contribution: $5,000,000

Hamlet of Rankin Inlet – Recreational Arena Retrofit

- Government of Canada contribution: $500,000
- Government of Nunavut contribution: $500,000
- Total MRIF contribution: $1,000,000

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